REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above

amendments and the following remarks.

For purposes of clarifying the claimed invention, claims 1-4 have been cancelled without

prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new claims 5-9.

The specification stands objected to as allegedly being a literal translation. In response,

Applicants provide above an amended specification.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is considered the

invention. The Office Action notes claims 1-4 fail to conform to U.S. practice.

In response, claims 1-4 have been replaced with new claims 5-8. In rewriting claims 1-4

as claims 5-8, the errors have been corrected. No new matter has been entered. The changes are

considered to be non-narrowing, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

New claim 9 is directed to a feature not recited in original claims 1-4.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the

Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone

number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 5, 2004

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